

Cyril Spotswood's Wednesday Memory

GOING BACK TO MEMORIES OF SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY.

I WAS WATCHING WEDNESDAY WAY BACK IN THE 1940s.

THE LOCAL LADS WERE EITHER WEDNESDAY OR UNITED SUPPORTERS. BEING A WEDNESDAYITE IT WAS MOSTLY OPPONENTS AT BRAMALL LANE. BEING WARTIME MANY TEAMS HAD GUEST PLAYERS AT THAT TIME AND GETTING MARRIED MEANT PLAYING AND SETTLING DOWN WITH THE CLUB.

ONE PLAYER WHO MATURED FOR WEDNESDAY WAS JACKIE ROBINSON. HE JOINED WEDNESDAY AS A TEENAGER AND IT WAS REPORTED , AT THAT TIME, THE YOUNGEST PLAYER TO BE CAPPED BY ENGLAND. IN HIS FIRST INTERNATIONAL, AGAINST GERMANY, IN BERLIN HE SCORED TWICE IN A 4-2 VICTORY.

AT INSIDE RIGHT HIS WING PARTNER WAS LEGEND, STAN MATTHEWS. A CERTAIN ADOLPH HITLER WAS AT THE GROUND AND LEFT BEFORE THE END.

THE SAD END TO THE ROBINSON STORY WAS, LIVING IN A CLUB HOUSE AT HILLSBOROUGH AFTER THE WAR, HE WANTED TO BUY IT. HE HAD MARRIED A LOCAL GIRL AND THEY HAD TWO DAUGHTERS AND WANTED TO BUY IT FOR SECURITY. WEDNESDAY REFUSED SO HE ASKED FOR A TRANSFER AND TOOK HIS FAMILY BACK TO SUNDERLAND.

AFTER A COUPLE OF SEASONS HE GOT HIS LEG BROKEN, PLAYING, AND GANGARENE SET IN AND HIS LEG WAS AMPUTATED. HE DIED AGED 50.

MRS ROBINSON VISITED HILLSBOROUGH YEARS LATER WITH HER FAMILY. SHOWING THE LADY A PORTRAIT I HAD PAINTED OF JACKIE, HER HUSBAND, SHE SAID "IS THIS FOR ME?"

HOW COULD I SAY "NO"?